

5. Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pool SEA: A, B, C, D, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	The only known Los Angeles County populations of the federally endangered Riverside fairy shrimp and the federal and state endangered California Orcutt grass are found in the vernal pools within the SEA. The federally threatened plant, Moran's navarettia, also occurs in these pools.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The Cruzan Mesa and Plum Canyon vernal pools are regionally unique biotic communities with several plants found only in such habitat types, and support the Riverside fairy shrimp, western spadefoot toad, and at least one vernal pool endemic ground beetle species.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The Cruzan Mesa and Plum Canyon vernal pools are unique biotic communities within Los Angeles County, with several plants found only in such habitat types. The pools support the Riverside fairy shrimp, western spadefoot toad, and at least one vernal pool endemic ground beetle species.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The vernal pools serve as concentrated breeding areas for several species of amphibians, including the sensitive western spadefoot toad. They also attract a diversity of waterfowl seasonally, mostly species migrating through the area, using the pools for resting and feeding. While other open water systems attract and support waterfowl, the vernal pools are located in remote, upland sites, away from other such freshwater features.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	No	Although the SEA does not contain biotic resources that are clearly an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community, it is of scientific interest due the extreme rarity of vernal pool communities.

F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	Protection and sensitive management of the Cruzan Mesa and Plum Canyon vernal pools would preserve one of the few examples of such habitat in Los Angeles County.